

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/004845

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61B17/70

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 03, 30 March 2000 (2000-03-30) - & JP 11 347046 A (KOBE STEEL LTD), 21 December 1999 (1999-12-21) abstract; figures 1-4,9,10	1
A	EP 0 461 374 A (HOWMEDICA GMBH) 18 December 1991 (1991-12-18) figures 1-5	1
A	FR 2 642 642 A (COTREL YVES) 10 August 1990 (1990-08-10) cited in the application	1
A	US 5 584 832 A (SCHLAEPFER ET AL) 17 December 1996 (1996-12-17) cited in the application	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention.

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 March 2005

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18/03/2005

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